MARVEL

19

LGY#184

DONNY CATES
IBAN COELLO
RAIN BEREDO

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE TIE-IN

VENOM

DISGRACED REPORTER EDDIE BROCK STUMBLED UPON AN AGGRESSIVE ALIEN ORGANISM CALLED A SYMBIOTE DURING ONE OF THE LOWEST POINTS OF HIS LIFE. THE TWO WERE JOINED AND USED THEIR COMBINED LUST FOR VIOLENCE TO MAKE THEIR CITY SAFER AS THE LETHAL PROTECTOR...

VENOM

YEARS AGO, THE OFFSPRING OF THE VENOM SYMBIOTE BONDED WITH THE SERIAL KILLER CLETUS KASADY, CREATING VENOM'S GREATEST FOE: CARNAGE. BUT THE SYMBIOTE ISN'T THE ONLY ONE WITH A CHILD; EDDIE NOW HAS A SON NAMED DYLAN.

WITH VENOM AWAY FIGHTING CARNAGE, DYLAN AND EX-SYMBIOTE HOST NORMIE OSBORN WERE LEFT IN THE CUSTODY OF THE MAKER. BUT AFTER AN ATTACK BY FOUR OF CARNAGE'S MINIONS–THE LIFE FOUNDATION SYMBIOTES RIOT, PHAGE, LASHER AND AGONY–THE MAKER BECAME BONDED WITH THEM, CREATING A NEW HYBRID! AS DYLAN AND NORMIE TRY TO ESCAPE THIS NEW MAKER HYBRID, SPIDER-MAN AND HIS ALLIES–CAPTAIN AMERICA, THE THING AND WOLVERINE–HAVE JUST ARRIVED!

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EARLIER.

CARNAGE IS GOING TO WIN.

WE LOST *MAC GARGAN*--THE SCORPION AND ONETIME *VENOM*.

OSBORN-CARNAGE JUST SHATTERED GARGAN'S SPINE AND RIPPED HIS CODEX OUT.

RAGHHH!

EZZARK

AND ONCE AGAIN I WAS TOO WEAK TO STOP IT.

GARGAN! COME ON, WE HAVE TO MOVE!

I...I CAN'T FEEL MY LEGS...

CARNAGE IS GETTING STRONGER BY THE SECOND.

COME ON!

THE...THE KID...

WAIT. WHERE IS...

AND WE...

...SPIDER-MAN...

...WE'VE LOST SO MUCH.

EDDIE! HELP!

PLEASE DON'T GO!

AND THROUGH ALL OF IT...

WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED!

...EVERY BROKEN BONE AND POOL OF BLOOD...

...THROUGH EVERY NEW BODY WE HAVE TO SCRAPE OFF THE STREET...

...ALL I CAN THINK...

RAGHAHAHA!

...IS HOW MUCH I JUST HOPE DYLAN IS OKAY.

RUN!

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PATHETIC!

AGH!

LET'S CROSS YOU OFF OUR LIST, CAPTAIN!

NNNGG, NO!

HEY! OW, WHAT ARE YOU--

COME ON, WEBS! TIME FOR A LITTLE FASTBALL--

WAIT, NO! BUT WOLVERINE IS LITERALLY RIGHT--

AGHHH!

UNF!

SLAM

COME ON!

WHAT ARE WE DOING? SHOULDN'T WE LEAVE?

WE'RE GETTING BACKUP.

COME ON OUT, SLEEPER.

WE NEED YOUR HELP.

THANK YOU, DYLAN.

I CAN... HEAR YOU IN MY *MIND*?

IN A WAY, YES. I CAN ALTER PHEROMONES TO LINK MY THOUGHTS TO YOURS.

ARE YOU READY?

READY... FOR WHAT?

MY BROTHER... CARNAGE. HE IS HUNTING HOSTS ACROSS THE CITY AS WE SPEAK.

HUNTING THE ONE WHO GAVE ME LIFE.

MANY HAVE FALLEN. MORE SOON WILL.

YOUR BROTHER... EDDIE. HE IS ALONE IN HIS FIGHT AGAINST THEM.

HE WILL NOT SURVIVE WITHOUT HELP.

WE MUST HELP OUR FAMILY, DYLAN.

ARE YOU READY TO JOIN THE FIGHT?

YES. I AM.

GOOD.

SOON THERE WILL BE NO YOU. NOR ME.

FROM NOW ON...

...WE...

...ARE...

AVENGER

GET AWAY FROM ME!

AGH!

YOUR MIND...I SENSED...

NEVER FELT ANYTHING LIKE THAT...

DYLAN...

...WHAT ARE YOU?

I... I DON'T KNOW...

HAHA! COME ON!

RAGHH!

NONE OF YOU GET IT!

OUR MASTER DOESN'T HAVE TO KILL ALL OF YOU TO WIN!

AGHH!

UNF!

JUST ENOUGH TO REJOIN THE HIVE!

AND GUESS WHAT?

HE'S ALMOST THERE NOW...

...WHO WANTS TO DIE FOR THE CAUSE?

SHNK

WHA--

beep

AGHHHH!

BLOOD

SORRY I'M LATE.

L.A. TRAFFIC IS *MURDER.*

BOOOM

RAGHH!

KRAKKOOM

YOU THINK THAT'S ENOUGH?!

DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT I AM?!

NOT REALLY...

...BUT MY FRIEND MIGHT.

SLEEPER.

KILL.

RAAAGHH!

WHAT-- WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

WE HAVE TO HELP IT. WE NEED TO GET IN THERE AND--

NO.

WHAT...WHAT IS THIS? DO YOU INTEND ON SLOBBERING US TO DEATH?!

SLEEPER IS CAPABLE OF MAKING ANY CHEMICAL FROM HIS BODY.

SO, NO. IT'S NOT SLOBBER.

IT'S NAPALM.

METAL.

FLICK

WHOOSH

AGGHHH!

LOOK AWAY!

AGHHH...

WHOA...

THAT'LL DO, HAWKEYE.

WAIT...

...WHERE'D MAKER GO?

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A FEW HOURS LATER...

WELL, I'M SORRY I'M LATE, EVERYONE...

...HULK AND I HAD SOME SYMBIOTE PROBLEMS OF OUR OWN.* BUT IF I'M READING ALL OF THIS RIGHT, MAKER'S MACHINE IS SOUND.

IT SEEMS HE'S ADDRESSED THE PRIOR... MISCALCULATIONS THAT CAUSED THE... ***DISCOMFORT*** THE BOYS HEARD FROM THE PRIOR HOSTS.

SO, IF IT'S OKAY WITH EVERYONE ELSE, WE CAN PROCEED.

THANKS, BRUCE. GLAD TO HAVE YOU HERE.

YOU READY, NORMIE? I'LL BE HERE THE WHOLE TIME.

YEAH. YEAH...I'M READY.

*CHECK OUT **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: THE IMMORTAL HULK #1,** TRUE BELIEVERS! --DEVIN

IS HE GOING TO BE OKAY?

THANKS TO YOU, YEAH.

YOU DID GOOD TODAY, DYLAN.

YOUR BROTHER WOULD BE PROUD OF YOU.

YEAH...

...IF HE EVER COMES HOME.

DON'T EVER DO THAT AGAIN, DYLAN.

I'M SORRY. I HAD TO DO SOMETHING, AND IT JUST KIND OF...KICKED IN. LIKE INSTINCT. I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW I COULD--

CONTROLLING A LIVING THING AGAINST ITS WILL IS UNETHICAL AND--

HEY, HOW'S *TEL-KAR?*

THE NAPALM WAS A GOOD IDEA, THOUGH.

THANKS. I'VE BEEN READING A LOT OF REX'S OLD WAR FILES.

WHY A WOLF? IF I MAY ASK?

YOU KNOW, I DON'T KNOW. I THINK IT'S BECAUSE I SAW EDDIE DO IT WITH HIS SYMBIOTE.

BUT TO BE HONEST...I'M NOT REALLY A DOG PERSON.

I SEE.

WELL, THEN...

...PERHAPS *THIS* WILL SUFFICE?

HEH. YEAH...

YEAH, I LIKE THAT A LOT--

DYLAN?!

DYLAN, ARE YOU--

HEY, BUDDY.

DYLAN. I WILL BE AT YOUR SIDE THROUGH WHAT IS TO COME.

I WILL PROTECT YOU TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY. AND I WILL NEVER BETRAY YOU...

...BUT I MUST ASK ONE THING...

WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO TELL EDDIE WHAT YOU *REALLY* ARE?

TO BE CONTINUED...

CLETUS' CLUBHOUSE

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SEND EMAILS TO **SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM** (PLEASE MARK "OKAY TO PRINT"!)

Hello in here, out there, around the world and aboard all the ships at sea!

Veditor Devin Lewis reporting to you live and in print from Marvel HQ in the heart of New York!

As I write this, ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #4 has just gone to the printer, and it's the best issue yet!

Enough gabbing from me, though. You Venomaniacs out there in Mighty Marveldom have been keeping up with ABSOLUTE CARNAGE each and every step of the way--and writing the letters to prove it! So let's get to 'em!

Dearest Cletus' Clubhouse Guardians,

Congrats again to Donny Cates, Ryan Stegman and all the lovelies involved with VENOM and ABSOLUTE CARNAGE for creating yet another exciting comic book ride. My first exposure to Mr. Cates was his incredible run on THANOS WINS, where he created my absolute fave new(ish?) character: Cosmic Ghost Rider. When I heard he was switching to VENOM next, only my absolute fave Marvel character of all time, I knew I had to get on board.

I must admit, at first I wasn't sure if I was on board with this whole Knull, god and creator of the symbiotes, but I kept my faith and hung around. The WEB OF VENOM one-offs were what really teased my curiosity as to where it was going and what excitement would ensue. Well, two issues deep into ABSOLUTE CARNAGE and I must consume it all. Between you guys and Hickman, I'm gonna need a second job...and it will be worth it. Thanks for all the good reads! Make Mine Murder and let Carnage paint the town red...'cuz, "listen, all you fools, don't you know that Carnage Rulez!"

Yours in slobber,
Raylo

Dear ABSOLUTE CARNAGE Creative Team,

I have to thank you guys. For the past few months, I sort of stopped reading comics. I had other things that required more immediate attention, notably school. Then, when I decided to finally go out to get some more comics, just a few hours ago, in fact, your series was the first one that caught my eye. I bought the first two issues and subsequently devoured them, looking over every detail. It is perfect. The artwork is gorgeous, highlighting each character's emotions and perfectly capturing the terror that is Carnage. The pacing of the story is grand, allowing time for character moments, while still giving us the action-packed symbiote fights that Venom, Spidey and other web-slingers' fans know and love. And, above all, it's terrifying, and I mean that in the best way possible.

About a week ago, I re-read AMAZING SPIDER-MAN's 300th issue, which, as you undoubtedly know, marked Venom's first appearance, and I was reminded of why everyone fell in love with the character. This comic book, as well as the VENOM series, are reminding me of why that character has resonated with me, and with so many other fans, I'm sure, while still managing to evolve him and make him into something new. That's no easy feat. So thank you. Thank you for everything you have done so far. May you continue to bring Carnage to the world. #carnagerules

Sincerely,
Ben R.

To everyone working on ABSOLUTE CARNAGE, the series so far is BRUTALITY AMAZING! I'm a new fan to comic books, just started picking them up right before WAR OF THE REALMS started, and I'm fortunate enough to be here for what seems to be the most metal event of all time! CARNAGE RULES!!!

Dan D.

Dear ABSOLUTE CARNAGE Team,

I'm just speechless with how amazing this whole event is turning out! So far every issue including the tie-ins are awesome in explaining the story. The art in ABSOLUTE CARNAGE is just stunning and in my opinion Stegman's best work yet! This story gets crazier and crazier and it feels like our heroes don't stand a chance at stopping Carnage. Just when you think our heroes are ahead of the game, Carnage is more ahead than them! Also that bomb being dropped of Dylan having a codex should make this event more exciting in upcoming issues. Can't wait to read the next issue and appreciate the work everyone has put in to make this happen!

Sincerely,
Steve

Greetings, Spidey-Office,

I just finished reading the first chapter of ABSOLUTE CARNAGE. I was beyond impressed with the story and art. I showed my kids the cover art of ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1 and explained the plot and characters to them and their eyes just lit up. Their reactions reminded me of how I was when I read my first Spider-Man, Venom and Carnage comics over 25 years ago. My first introduction to Spider-Man, Venom and Carnage came from AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #375, VENOM: LETHAL PROTECTOR #1, *Wizard Magazine* #18 and SPIDER-MAN UNLIMITED #1 (1993 was a huge year for Spidey, Venom, and Carnage). The gorgeous art and larger-than-life characters captured my imagination. Few books have made me experience such excitement and intrigue as those books. I am overjoyed to say that ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1 took me right back to those same feelings I had as a kid. Seeing Peter, Eddie, and Cletus and their colorful personalities front and center was a pleasure to behold. I wanted to say thank you for the fantastic job everyone does on these books and to keep up the outstanding work.

Sincerely a Very Grateful Spidey, Venom and Carnage fan,

Richard P.
Madison, AL

Hi, VENOM Team!

I'm pretty new to actually reading comics, and my senior copywriter suggested I start with VENOM #1. I'm four issues in and I'm insanely impressed with Donny Cates, Ryan and the rest of the team. It's a stunning book with a well-paced story so far and the tone is perfect (in my opinion) for a character as gray as Venom. Well done!

Loïs

Hey Team Venom,

Just finished ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1 and was absolutely blown away. It's amazing that Venom debuted in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #300 all those years ago, yet he's still one of the best and most original characters ever created in comic book history. You guys did such a great job of making Venom an actual hero instead of just an antihero, and he still has this extremely rugged and tough edge to him. It's always fun to see Venom team up with Spidey ("Eddie...no killing") and you guys do a great job with their "friendship." The back-and-forth banter between Spider-Man and Venom is not only funny and poignant, but there seems to be a lot of trust between the two characters in this issue that is both different and unique. The artwork and coloring is beautiful, and the red really stands out! Cletus Kasady is a sadistic killer, and having him trying to spread the symbiote to other characters is a stroke of genius. I am holding ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #2 in my hand right now and cannot wait to start it. I look forward to this story and how it plays out over the next few months! Bravo!

Kevin from Boston

Hello to everyone at the Spidey-Office!

My name is Logan, and I have to say I am very impressed with the ABSOLUTE CARNAGE event and all its tie-ins. ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1 was actually the first Venom comic I've ever read, and I loved every page. It was generally terrifying, and every page was easily some of the most visually appealing and creative art I've seen in a comic before. That one page with Cletus strutting down the hall in Ravencroft with all the patients there screaming sent shivers down my spine as I read it. I was also thoroughly disturbed and utterly amazed at the artwork in SEPARATION ANXIETY #1, the colors really popped out from the black-and-red background, and the attention to detail was jaw-dropping. The ABSOLUTE CARNAGE VS. DEADPOOL was hilarious too. Keep up the awesome work you guys are doing at the Spidey-Office!!!

With Sincere Fear,
Logan

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM #1 was a SCREAMing good time! Seeing both of my favorite girls, Andi and Scream, in one place blew me away! I'm so happy to see both of them back in action! This event is bring back so many underused characters! Thank you all so much for it! I can't wait for Scream's ongoing!

Alison C.

Dear Venom Team,

I've only been reading comics for a couple years now so I'm pretty new to the comics scene. However, one of the first books I picked up when I started reading was VENOMIZED #1. Such a great series and really what got me into Venom. When Donnie's VENOM #1 released I was hooked. I've picked up every issue since.

This ABSOLUTE CARNAGE run is LITERALLY BLOWING MY MIND. I've picked up multiple copies of each issue and tie-in to mail to my friends so that they're not missing out. I can't help but wonder what will happen if/when Knull is awakened. All the stuff going on in SILVER SURFER: BLACK has me questioning everything.

I am curious, is there any chance we might get to see Cosmic Ghost Rider in this amazing run? His crossing with Carnage at the end of CGDTM was one of my favorite couple pages I've ever read. Fingers crossed!

Carnage rules!

J. Shouse

Dear Venom office,

I just finished reading VENOM #18, and I love it. I am big fan of the symbiotes and I can't wait to see what happens next. I am also glad to see that the Life Foundation symbiotes are getting a bit of love, and I hope that they stay with their new hosts; I love their new designs. My favorite symbiote is Phage and I like his host too; please keep him around, he is awesome.

Also I want to say that I really like your art. Mr. Stegman, it is awesome.

I have only read ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1 and the Symbiote Spider-Man crossover, but I instantly loved the series and can't wait for more Carnage. Carnage is one of my favorites so I knew I would love the series, but I didn't know I would love it this much!!! I am so happy to be able to read this series and can't wait for the chapters to come!!! But why did you choose to make a series about Carnage? What gave you the idea? CARNAGE RULES!!!

Hunter B.

PHEW!

What a load of lovely letters. Thanks so much for reading and for writing, everyone! And keep 'em coming! We've still got plenty of tricks up our sleeves as we head into November and the last lethal issue of ABSOLUTE CARNAGE!

Remember to tell your comic shop that you want the best, and the best is CARNAGE!

#CarnageRules

Stay sharp!
Devin
@edevinlewis

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #5